

PATENT
450106-02134

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Tetsujiro KONDO et al.
U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith
Continuation of
International Appln. No.: PCT/JP99/05513
International Filing Date: 6 October 1999
Priority Date Claimed: 6 October 1998
Title of Invention: ENCODING APPARATUS, ENCODING
METHOD, DECODING APPARATUS,
DECODING METHOD, AND RECORD MEDIUM

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Siri

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, add the following: